

MISSION A SECRET.**Townsite Representatives on a Long Still Hunt.**

Messrs Mosby and Bucknam, of the Sumpter Townsite company, returned Thursday from a three weeks trip to the west and southwest of Sumpter; traveling quite 500 miles. They took things easy, camping wherever night caught them or inclination prompted.

Regarding the object of this extended trip neither gentleman will say a word. They don't even claim to have discovered the most promising gold bearing ledge yet uncovered in eastern Oregon. But when it comes to talking in a general way about the country through which they passed, they become loquacious and enthusiastic. Mr. Mosby being an unmarried man, a great horse fancier and an expert in picking out the perfect points, his declaration that the John Day valley has the handsomest girls and finest horses of any locality of the Pacific Coast, is of especial value and weight on these points.

The gentlemen went from here to Clifton, Austin, Susanville, Prairie City, Burns, Malheur and return, coming back over a different route, but taking in the same camps. They say that Burns and Malheur are good towns, backed by big stock ranches. These ranges cover a level plateau hundreds of miles in extent and have an altitude nearly as high as that of Sumpter. There is no timber in that vicinity and both lumber and fuel are hauled many miles.

They agree with other travelers in declaring that the John Day valley is the finest country on which the sun shines.

These men were not on a pleasure trip; it was strictly a business proposition, regarding the nature of which there is much speculation indulged in hereabouts.

Bullion From the Badger.

Frank Brile, superintendent of the Badger mine in the Susanville district south of Sumpter, came down to Baker from the properties last Monday with the monthly cleanup, which is said to be about \$4000. The Badger property is owned by an incorporated company whose stock is held principally in San Francisco. It is one of the early locations of the Susanville camp and is reported to be one of the best paying small mines in the state of Oregon. The property has been developed in a conservative and intelligent manner, and is fully equipped with machinery. All the development work has been done largely under the superintendence of Mr. Brile, an experienced mine superintendent of California. He has employed a large force of men in development work and the leads on the group are being thoroughly explored. Superintendent Brile says this summer has been the most active in the history of the Susanville district and prospectors in the camp have been encouraged by the good showing on their claims.—Baker City Herald.

Golden Opportunities.

The season of the year is almost at hand when prospectors gradually drift back to town and as they arrive all report great activity in all the districts tributary to Sumpter. The older sections have been scoured over for fractional claims and the newer districts abound in prospect holes and location stakes. As a rule the prospector has done more thorough work than in past seasons, located fewer claims and investigated what he did locate. The discovery of new classes of ore shows the effect of prospectors coming in from other mining districts where similar formations were encountered. Many of the prospects of last year are nearing the stage where machinery is necessary for further development. In some of these pumps and hoists

will be installed, on others stamp mills erected, while others will be idle until a man with money happens along, he will be given an interest in the mine for a fraction of what it is worth. There are no developed mines in the camp for sale, but there are many prospects and partly developed properties held by men with insufficient means to make mines of them. Every week some shrewd investor happens along and secures one of these embryo mines. The same hard sense and good judgment that should be exercised in the purchase of a tract of government land, a colt or a calf is all that is necessary when purchasing mining property.

Machinery for Gold Ridge Arrives.

The new pumps for the Gold Ridge mine, on lower Burnt river, arrived during the week and are now being installed at the mine. It is expected that they will be in operation within a week or ten days, unwatering the submerged workings of the mine. Manager McNichols is energetically at work carrying out the preliminaries for the big scheme of development planned for the Gold Ridge by Letson Balliet, and it is understood that the latter's recent trip to San Francisco and Portland was for the purpose of ordering still more machinery for the mine. Though the Gold Ridge was at one time quite a steady producer of rich ore, it had practically been lost sight of in more recent years. Now that it has gotten into the hands of Mr. Balliet it may reasonably be expected that the Gold Ridge will once again resume its former prominence as a producer, and even eclipse its former record. Mr. Balliet has in his day resurrected several so-called "played out" mines and put them upon the top shelf. One notable instance is that of the Gowanus mine, in Blood Gulch, California, which is now paying regular dividends to Mr. Balliet. He also made a producer out of the Delta, in Dixie district, Idaho, after the original locators threw up the sponge in disgust.—Republican.

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